

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15
TRSE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 NSC-05 SIG-03 IO-13 /099 R

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L/OES-MR. COLSON
OES/OFA/FA MR. SNEAD
-----008906 080414Z /17

P R 072150Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 1258

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227133

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, XP, PP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC FISHERIES - SPRFO

REF: PORT MORESBY 1470

1. REPORT REFTEL THAT FIJI INTENDS TO PROPOSE SOME
CHANGES TO DRAFT SPRFO CONVENTION RAISES SOME CONCERN IN
DEPT. DURING CONVERSATION WITH GNZ EMBASSY OFFICIAL
LARKINDALE, DEPT OFFICIALS RAISED OUR CONCERN THAT CHANGES
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TO SPRFO CONVENTION MIGHT BE PROPOSED AT UP-COMING FORUM
MEETING. LARKINDALE RESPONDED THAT GNP OFFICIALS IN SUVA
HAD RECENTLY HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH GOF OFFICIAL KOTOBALAVU
CONCERNING SPRFO. ACCORDING TO LARKINDALE, CONVERSATION
WAS CHARACTERIZED AS CONFUSING BUT GNZ BELIEVES MAJOR
FIJIAN CONCERN IS WITH MEMBERSHIP ARTICLES. GOF WOULD
LIKE TO SEE A SPECIFIC LIST OF NATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR

SIGNING CONVENTION RATHER THAN THE FORMULA CONTAINED IN ARTICLE 15.

2. DEPT OFFICIALS NOTED WITH LARKINDALE OUR CONCERN THAT FORUM NOT MODIFY DRAFT CONVENTION IN ANY WAY POINTING OUT THAT THIS COULD CAUSE SEVERE PROBLEMS FOR U.S. BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC PERCEPTIONS, THAT SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES HAD UNILATERALLY CHANGED DRAFT IN ABSENCE OF U.S. IN RESPONSE

TO QUESTION AS TO ACCEPTABILITY OF FIJIAN PROPOSAL, QUITE ASIDE FROM THE PROCESS USED TO INSERT IT IN CONVENTION, DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INFORMALLY RESPONDED THAT A MORE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE TO LEAVE THE TEXT AS DRAFTED AND TO THEN LIST THOSE NATIONS ELIGIBLE TO SIGN THE CONVENTION IN A RESOLUTION WHICH COULD BE ADOPTED AT THE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES WHICH WILL ADOPT THE BASIC CONVENTION ITSELF. LARKINDALE AGREED THAT SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED.

3. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION POST MAY HAVE CONCERNING FIJIAN INTENT AT FORUM MEETING. WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH FIJIAN OFFICIALS AT NEW YORK LOS CONFERENCE AND WILL RAISE ISSUE. CHRISTOPHER

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